



February 7, 2017

Proposed Senate Bill 23
Committee on INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE
PUBLIC HEARING: 2/7/2017

Proposed Senate Bill 23 -- *AN ACT REQUIRING SITE-NEUTRAL PAYMENTS FOR HEALTH CARE SERVICES.*

The Connecticut Center for Patient Safety strongly supports this proposed bill that is intended to improve the health care market in Connecticut.

In 2013, CMS's Medicare Payment Advisory Commission report that found "Medicare was paying 141% more for a Level 2 echocardiogram in a hospital outpatient setting than the program paid for one performed in a physician's office." In response to this finding, Congress adopted a site-neutral policy at the Federal level. This policy is expected to save Medicare a significant amount of money in 2017.

A similar policy in Connecticut would likely accomplish similar significant savings. More-so, patients are running into surprise charges for facility fees that are, in some cases, being passed on to them. Where they once went to their physician's office and had a diagnostic test or even a routine appointment, suddenly, now that the practice is owned by a hospital system, they are being charged an additional fee that is not for any additional service, but simply because the practice is now considered an "extension" of the hospital system. Our residents are seeing health care costs and their share of these costs rising, and thus health care is becoming more unaffordable. As our state's hospitals bought more and more smaller practices and other outpatient facilities, they publicly said that the result would be better care coordination and costs would come down. Perhaps that is what logically should happen, but it is not what we are seeing. This surprise billing is harming patients and impacting their access to safe, high quality health care by causing their health care to become less affordable.

This bill would help correct that and we support its passage.

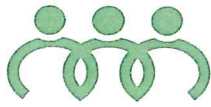
Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Freeman

Executive Director

Connecticut Center for Patient Safety

Contacts: Jean Rexford, Lisa Freeman, Bob Shea



CONNECTICUT CENTER
FOR PATIENT SAFETY
QUALITY HEALTHCARE IS A RIGHT.

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Dedicated to improving healthcare, reducing preventable medical harm and protecting patient rights

What Can CTCPS Do for Me?

We serve all of our fellow residents of Connecticut in a number of ways:

- ◇ We are the non-conflicted patient voice representing patients' preferences in many policy, legislative and other stakeholder conversations. Our outreach includes one-on-one member support when needed.
- ◇ We offer presentations and workshops to nursing schools, medical schools and hospitals.
- ◇ We speak with community groups about patient engagement and patient safety issues.
- ◇ We represent the patient perspective in response to media inquiries.
- ◇ We have a social media presence on Facebook and Twitter.
- ◇ We publish a monthly newsletter filled with interesting topics including guest articles from our members.
- ◇ Our website provides health care resources with links that educate and guide consumers on navigating the healthcare system, hospital care, senior services, information about health concerns, and legislative issues.
- ◇ We have an online support group for victims and others whose lives have been touched by medical malpractice and medical harm.
- ◇ We were built by and rely on volunteers. If you are interested in working with us, please contact us.

If you have a complaint or concern about your care in a CT hospital or by a CT healthcare provider, contact the Department of Public Health at: 860-509-7552 or go to their website at:
<http://bit.ly/2i5Tw0M>

About the Connecticut Center for Patient Safety (CTCPS)

The Connecticut Center for Patient Safety was established in 2004 as a non-profit by a group of residents who had personally experienced the impact of medical harm. Our vision is grounded in the belief that the people of Connecticut have the right to receive safe, high quality health care. Furthermore, we understand the importance of organizing a coordinated patient and public voice to address the needs and expectations of individuals in an evolving and complex healthcare system.

Over the past 10 years, we have grown in terms of our outreach, our approaches and our services. Today we are dedicated to improving health care, reducing preventable medical harm and protecting your rights as a patient.

We don't want you to become a statistic:

- ◇ We do not want you to suffer preventable harm while hospitalized. According to estimates from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, there were 3.8 million hospital injuries in 2015.
- ◇ We do not want you to experience a medication error. The Institute of Medicine (IOM) reports that there is one medication error per patient per hospital day.
- ◇ We do not want you to receive medical care that is influenced by conflicts of interest. ProPublica has initiated consumer transparency to disclose financial ties between doctors and the pharmaceutical industry they serve. Visit their [Dollars for Docs website](https://projects.propublica.org/docdollars/) at: <https://projects.propublica.org/docdollars/>.

What we do want for you are doctors and hospitals focused on patient safety and providing high quality health care.

Things to bring with you to your doctor visits & to the hospital:

1. A list of all of your medications, herbals, & vitamins, with doses, prescriber and purpose.
2. Your pharmacy name, address & phone number.
3. A list of your questions/concerns.
4. Any diagnostic films &/or reports and lab results.
5. Your *Medical Information Sheet*: a page with everything that you can think of that is relevant to your health: your insurance coverage, emergency contact information, current and past medical conditions, your family health history, list of *all* allergies and adverse reactions, and other important information.

Additional items to bring to the hospital:

1. A pillow, pajamas, slippers, toiletries, chap stick.
2. A list of your important personal phone numbers.
3. A notepad and pencil or pen to journal, note questions, record Dr. or Nurses names.
4. Hand sanitizer and a baggie to place over the TV remote.
5. A book, digital music, cell phone, headphones and charger(s).

Free Patient Guides to read BEFORE you go to the hospital

- ⇒ THE BATZ GUIDE for Bedside Advocacy available for free download at www.louisebatz.org
- ⇒ Empowered Patients HOSPITAL GUIDE for Patients and Families available for free download at www.empoweredpatientcoalition.org
- ⇒ Empowered Patients THE PATIENT JOURNAL Your Hospital Diary available for free download at www.empoweredpatientcoalition.org.

Join the consumer healthcare movement and demand greater quality of care.

Sign up for our Monthly Newsletter!

The Connecticut Center for Patient Safety is a non-profit, non-partisan advocacy organization offering education and information to:

- Empower health care consumers
- Engage patients in their care
- Improve the quality, safety and reliability of healthcare
- Protect the rights of patients

Visit our website at: <http://www.CTCPS.org/resources.cfm> for more information, guides and recommendations.

Be an engaged and informed patient.